

David Stern and Ann Marie Schmidt
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Page 2

Please amend the subject application as follows:

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 11 and 28 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a further continuation or divisional application. Please amend claims 1 and 19 as follows:

--1. (2x amended)

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b 1*

A method to prevent accelerated development of atherosclerosis in a subject, ~~predisposed thereto~~ which comprises administering to the subject a polypeptide [derived from soluble receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (SEQ ID NO.: 2 or 4)] comprising the V-domain of sRAGE or a derivative thereof capable of inhibiting the interaction between AGE and RAGE in an amount effective to prevent accelerated development of atherosclerosis in the subject [, wherein the polypeptide inhibits an interaction between AGE and cellular RAGE]. --

--19. (2x amended)

B 2 M C 1

A method to [prevent a] inhibit progression of macrovessel disease in a subject predisposed thereto which comprises administering to the subject a polypeptide [derived from soluble receptor for advanced glycation endproduct (SEQ ID NO.: 2 or 4)] comprising the V-domain of sRAGE or a derivative thereof capable of inhibiting the interaction between AGE and RAGE in an amount effective to [prevent] inhibit progression of macrovessel disease in the subject [wherein the polypeptide inhibits an